

Cutting Principles

Always maintain sharp cutting tools. Use pruning shears of the scissors type as they make the cleanest cuts. Anvil pruners work well for removing dead wood but tend to smash one side of newer, tender green stems.



Scissors

Anvil

A proper cut slants at about a 45-degree angle away from the bud (growth) eye.



Cuts should be 1/4 inches above the growth eye and below diseased wood.



Too Far

Too Close

Correct

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

of the

Arlington Rose Foundation

Consulting Rosarians (CRs) are certified by **THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY** after successfully demonstrating expert knowledge on rose culture. A select few rosarians who have been CRs for at least 10 years and provided outstanding service to others, have been elevated to the status of Master Consulting Rosarian (M). All are available free of charge to assist and advise on rose culture and problems, help anyone start new rose gardens and in every way share their knowledge with others. You may feel free to call upon them with questions or for assistance.

Michael Berger (M)
703-848-1942

Bill Blevins
Emeritus

Nita Bowen (M)
(703) 620 9768

Rick Brown
(540) 972 1821

Dink Dinkins
(703) 978 6387

Melanie Dostis
(703) 821 0429

Joe Dysart
(703) 532 7764

Sharlie Eaton
(703) 938 1608

Clif Jeter
(301) 460 8669

Diana Klassy
(301) 863 5186

Capt Eddy Krauss (M)
(540) 937 2177

Dave Maxwell
(571) 278 3132 (c)

Joe Mirilovich (M)
(703) 296 1001 (c)

Charles Munday
(301) 739 4669

Robert Ruby
(301) 739 8898

John Simonton
(703) 380 2667 (c)

(c) mobile phone



PRUNING

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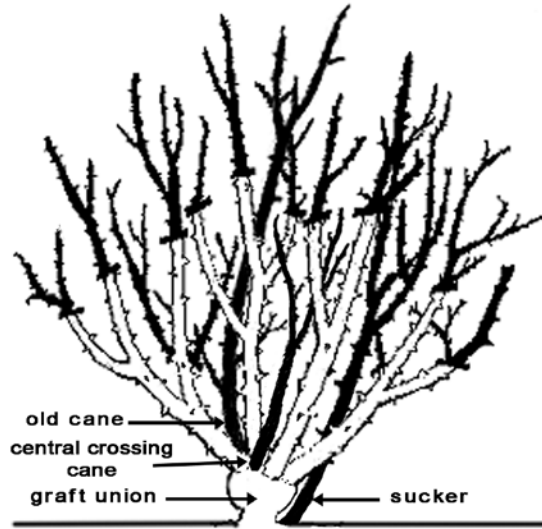


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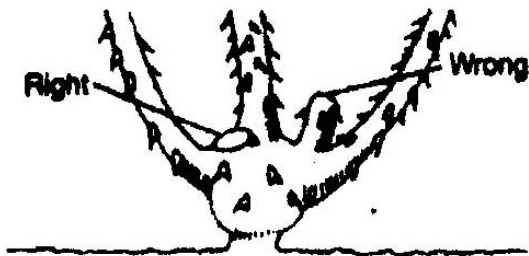
Pruning Tips

Proper pruning is essential to the health of roses as it encourages new growth and results in better blossoms. Dormant pruning is performed on all repeat blooming roses in the spring, about the time forsythias bloom. Once-blooming roses should be pruned immediately after their spring bloom cycle. Ready for pruning, the dormant bush is leafless or nearly so.



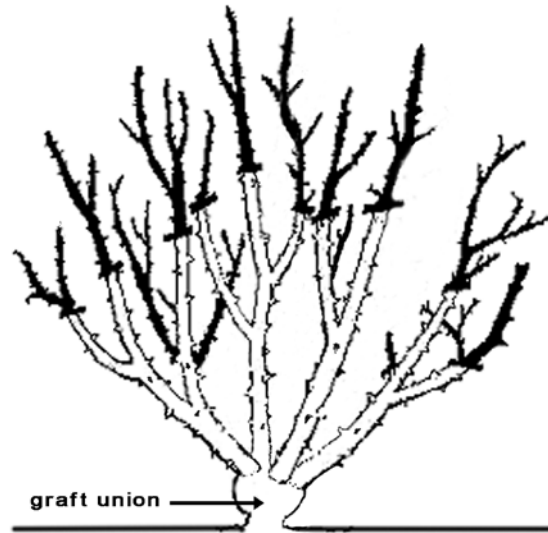
Ready For Pruning

Step 1: Always prune from the ground up. Remove dead, damaged, diseased and old canes that produced no strong growth, suckers growing from the root stock rather than above the graft, and central crossing canes. These actions leave healthy wood and open up the center of the bush to improve air circulation.



Bud Union Cuts Should be Flush

After step 1 you should have at least 3 or 4 vigorous canes on young bushes and perhaps 6 to 8 canes on older bushes.

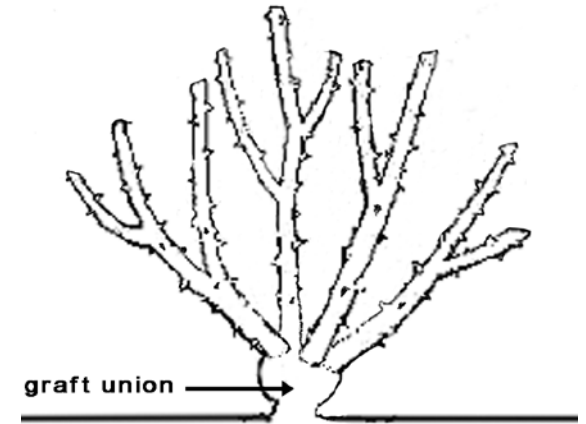


Unproductive Canes Removed

Step 2: Remove about one-third of the outer ends of the remaining healthy canes. Cut at least one inch below any damaged areas and one-quarter inch above an outward facing bud. Choose buds that face in directions you want the new growth to go. This will allow you to shape the plant and will result in new growth away from the center of the plant, improving air circulation and reducing disease. Remove all spindly shoots less than the diameter of a pencil. If two branches rub or are close enough that they will soon, remove the weaker one.

Examine the bud or graft union and remove any excessive woody material, taking care to avoid breaking off any new growth - basil breaks. Sealing any cuts larger than a pencil with Elmer's glue will discourage wood bores. Strip off any remaining leaves and clean up all leaves and debris from the ground. As the last step, spraying the bush and ground under the bush with a contact fungicide such as Mancozeb or Maneb will reduce the incidence of black spot.

With the mild climate in the Washington, D.C. region, healthy growth should not be reduced by more than one-third. This is considered moderate to light pruning. Floribundas should be pruned slightly less than one-third and miniatures and mini-floras slightly more. Heavier pruning will yield fewer but larger flowers and lighter pruning will yield more but smaller flowers.

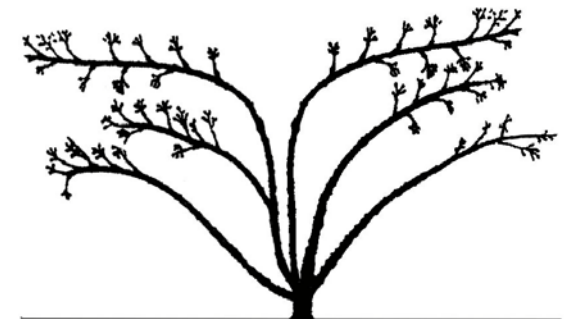


Final Trimmed Bush

This process is essentially the same for all roses, except climbing roses (see below). Also the growth of own root roses - those that have no bud union - is all directly from the roots, so don't prune suckers.

Throughout the growing season trimming spent blossoms down to a five leaf leaflet will encourage more blooms and healthy new growth.

For climbing roses, Step 1 is the same as described above, namely to remove dead, damaged and diseased canes, keeping several of the healthiest long stems. It is recommended these remaining stems be trained horizontally, as horizontal canes mean more buds. The uppermost bud on a branch secretes hormones to repress the growth of those below. If a cane is horizontal, no bud has dominance, so all the buds grow and bloom. Simply trim the laterals (the small canes off the main stems) leaving 2 to 4 bud eyes on each lateral. Climbers tend to show new growth earlier in the spring and should therefore be pruning several weeks before hybrid teas, floribundas, and shrubs.



Climbers Trimmed Differently